Andover Sabbath Evening March 2nd 1828.

Dear S— I ~~have~~ arrived here safe yesterday about ½ past 3 o'clock My roommate has gone to Boston. I therefore improve this early opportunity to write you and as I have a long letter to write I make my beginning as you see ~~a considerably~~ thus near the top of my sheet and in this fine hand. I must first tell you what has passed in my own bosom and around me since I left you Friday night. I made the best of my way to Mr Goodwins - eat my pie - drank my milk - went to bed (after commending myself and you to the protection of God) and slept until the stage came thundering along the road in the morning - It was not long before I was on my legs - I paid Mr C- a short morning call & found him in bed & then "~~without~~" ~~"sans ceremonie" take~~ without ceremony took my leave of So Berwick. Arrived at Dover in season - set *sail* for Andover with several passengers - among them a weak female who said "Mr Henry Ware was so *good* a man it seemed as if his doctrine *must be* true" & "that Doct Beecher was making a great many proselytes" - She soon found out that I was from Andover when she was rather *mum* - I did n't say one word on the subject of Unitarianism simply because I thought that she was one of those who have a zeal, they know not for what, and are rather deficient in knowledge At New Market we took in a tonguey Doctor withall a lover of the L cup - He kept us all awake at least - and invited me to call on him at Roxbury whenever I came to Boston) ~~at the~~ Next in order comes what has passed in my own bosom since I left you. In all that I now say to you I wish you to be *particular* in remembering that I say it ~~in~~ with the *same spirit* - *the same feelings* of tenderness and affection which I exhibited to you on friday evening - My love for you is not in the least diminished. The fact which you then communicated so far from ~~being~~ influencing me to leave you (if I know myself) has become ~~a~~ one of the strongest motives - one of the most powerful bonds that now binds my soul to you - I cannot - no I cannot bear the thought of seperating from you - And when the idea comes into my mind that I may possibly be left to do it in consequence of what you then told me - I am struck with horror & involuntarily cry out No, never - never. It is with some reluctance that I make the remarks & give the advices which follows, ~~the~~ but be assured they come from a heart as deeply interested for your future happiness as for its own - receive them as such and believe that I would not *willingly* say any thing to wound your feelings - You have been injured, deeply injured - you have ~~been~~ felt the stings ~~of~~ inflicted by faithless friends - If I can prevent it you shall not feel them again. When you communicated that fact to me I was in some measure prepared for it, but still, though you saw nothing of it, ~~then~~ it was a tremendous blow to me - It gave me many pangs Saturday - It haunts me still but I am more and more reconciled to it and though I shall never forget it - though it will as I fear cause me much unhappiness in future life I am ready to forgive you and embrace you as an unfortunate but lovely girl I am ready to embrace you as one whose misfortunes bind you to my heart. You have never had any one to watch over, protect & guide you - You have been left alone to resist temptation - I do not wonder that you were overcome. God grant that I may be to you all that you need. You are now left alone in the world - you have indeed sisters who can counsel you but you need some thing more - You need some one who can take a deeper ~~interest~~ interest in your welfare, your character &c &c than even sisters can do - Such do I desire to be to you - Allow me then to advise you - Think not I wish to dictate, to assume authority over you - Have I ever done any thing that ~~a~~ did not show a *strong* regard for your interests? Then believe me actuated by the same motive now. The fact you told me of was, as you acknowledge a great defect in your character - Now how shall you make it up to me? If you will let me advise you - ~~if you~~ I will tell you - If you will follow my advice the seperation is made. ~~I~~ I feel as though your situation as an orphan in connection with the fact just alluded to, ~~[illegible]~~ called upon me not only to assume the place of a ~~[illegible]~~ lover but that of a counsellor ~~&~~ a protector & I feel as though you ought in return for my faithfulness

Write me soon if you please before you go to Dover unless you go very soon - For I am very anxious to hear from you - Be a good girl - Yours A. A. P. — ~~[illegible]~~

March 2nd 1828.

and the continuance of my affection under these circumstances to receive me as a counsellor - to follow my advice and be willing to do any thing reasonable which I ask of you. I will not ask any -thing unreasonable - If you will do ~~this~~ thus - then I am sure my affection for you will remain if you do not I fear (I cannot bear to say it) but I fear that it may possibly not remain. I pray God this may never be the case but still it may. I am satisfied that you love me most sincerely - I feel as though you would make an affectionate and faithful wife - What can I ask more? I will tell you in the sequel. Nature designed you to be among the first females, in point of talent and influence, in society - You have the mind - you have every natural ability to make you one of the first - But your spirit has been broken by one misfortune and by the trials with which you have been afflicted - You have always been obliged to look upon the dark side of things. I need not dwell upon this - you are already sensible of ~~this~~ it. Now ~~the~~ your trials are in some measure over - A burthen that pressed upon your mind has been removed You have unbosomed yourself to me - It is time then for you to look upon the bright side of things - to be expecting some happiness and not to be continually looking out for sorrow. There is sin in indulging gloomy - desponding reflections aside from the misery that ~~[illegible]~~ accompanies them. And now after this brief view of your situation you may very properly ask me the question what shall I do?

In answer to this I will tell you what I think you need and then what you should do will be plain. I cannot at this time tell you all I wish - but remember that love to you is the motive that leads me to make these remarks - and therefore let them have no bad effect on your feelings. In the first place then you need to have your ambition - your views respecting your usefulness in future life more enlarged and elevated. This is only what I told you friday evening when I advised you to go to Boston - You need to be in more elevated society than what you have been accustomed to - I mean in the family - You need to be where there is more refinement and what is most important of all you need to be where you can hear and see & know what is going on in the world around you and more than this you need to be - you must be where you will not witness any thing like intemperance You have seen enough of this and borne trouble enough from it. These then are reasons why you should go to Boston as soon as possible. I have placed them here on paper that you might have them continually before you. I come now to mention what I have never mentioned to you before. It is important that you, destined as you are, to be my wife, should be intimately acquainted with all the Benevolent operations of the day - You should know if you do not already (& I can hardly suppose that you do because there are very few females in Ber- that do & because you never have had any means of knowing until lately) - I say it is important that you should know the design and object of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions - you should know where they support missionaries who these Missionaries are &c Just so with other Societies - You ~~the design~~ should know - the plan and the design of the Education Society - So with the Colonization Society you should know where the colony is &c &c I mean you should acquire a general knowledge of the operations & the designs of all ~~the~~ benevolent societies. For with all my means of information my knowledge respecting them is only general - You will find a list of these different societies in the 2 numbers of the Herald which I sent you. If you wish for any information respecting any of them I will give it, if in my power. There is one practice which I have found of great advantage to me and I most earnestly recommend it to you - It is this; whenever you are reading of any missionary station unless you already know where it is go to your map and find it - For instance were your reading missionary intelligence from Smyrna - look upon the map and see where Smyrna is. I shall send you all the publications which I take - read them diligently - and make yourself as much acquainted with what is going forward in the world as possible. This a matter that requires some exertion - I feel, ~~that~~ although my means of information on this point have been much greater than yours, that I have still

that you will be enabled to make the practice interesting and useful to you -
I wish you to be careful to preserve all the pamphlets I send you

much to learn. And in reccommending the acquirement of this knowledge of the
benevolent operations of the day, to you I am only requesting you to pursue the same course
which I am pursuing. We are destined to hold important stations in Society - This knowle
ge will be required of us - In all my studies I am continually in the habit of looking
forward to my future life as a minister and making the enquiries what qualification
- what kind of knowledge do I need? Now you are destined to be a ministers wife - You
then should make the same enquiry. I have anticipated this enquiry by telling you of
one thing that is necessary viz. a knowledge of the benevolent operations of the day. I shall
put into your hands the publications from which you can acquire this knowledge
all I ask is that you should read them as I have no doubt you do with diligence.
And in order to fix ~~it~~ what you read in your memory be in the habit con-
-tinually as I said before of referring to the map for the situation of places with which you
are unacquainted. I intended to say something on several other points but
I find that to treat them as I should wish, would require more paper than I have
left. I will conclude by telling you what I wish - Will you consent to receive
and follow, so far as you can, advice from me? Tell me in your next. You have
now 3 years, nearly, before we can think of being married - all this time you can
have if you are willing for the improvement of your mind. You readily
perceive that it is necessary for me to study - to cultivate an acquaintance
with books to prepare for the ministry Now is not the same necessary for you?
I ask the question because I wish to say to you read - read as much as possible
study - improve every opportunity for acquiring information - be a ~~[illegible]~~
literary lady - Remember the station to which you are destined. I say these
things S.A. not because I suppose you are negligent on this point but in order
that yo[illegible]ay feel the importance of improving every opportunity for the knowle
cult[illegible] your mind - our influence is to be great - every item of
ge we[illegible]s an item added to our means of doing good - is an item of
added to [illegible]r influence - I say then go to Boston as soon as Conven
set out as it were anew in life - look for brighter prospects - be what you
can be if you pursue the course I have just begun to mark out for you
and you are then more dear to me than ever. Will you do it? If you will ~~receive such advice from~~
~~me~~ permit me S.A. I will undertake to give you such counsel and directions as I
think you need and I feel as though you were bound to receive & follow so far as you
can - Let me henceforth direct in the formation of your character - Let me point
out to you freely & plainly what is before you - Let me be your guide & protector
Write me soon - and tell me how you have felt since I left - How this letter affects
you - & how you have felt on the subject of religion. And Oh! do make ~~the~~ religion
a business of importance - give yourself no rest until you become a christian
remember you must die soon. Tell me if you are willing to let me direct
and counsel you for the 3 years that are coming - It is now late and I
~~I~~ must bid you good evening - I went to meeting to night and we sung St.
Thomas - who do you think I thought of - remember me to Aunt Nancy if you
please - pray for me - be a good girl and I trust your last days will
be your best days - so good night - I remain yours as truly as ever
Ambrose A Phelps

I will just mention to you a plan which if you are willing I wish you to pursue - I do
it now - It is this to keep a journal or a diary - in which you shall be in the habit of writing
some thing every day - If you will do this I will give you some directions in my next so
that you will be enabled to make the practice interesting and useful to you -
I wish you to be careful to preserve all the pamphlets I send you

MAR 6

10

Mr. Wm. P. Weeks Esqr
South Berwick
Maine

March 2 – 1837
A. A. P. to [illegible]

Write me soon if you please before you go to Dover unless you go very soon, for I am very anxious to hear from you.. Be a good girl — Yours A. A. P. — ~~[illegible]~~